THE SPOTLIGHT

Alexander Hamilton Vocational High School, Brooklyn, N.Y.

MR. WILNER REPLACES MR. FOX AS PRINCIPAL

HAMILTON MOURNS MR. FOX, VICTIM OF CANCER

Alexander Hamilton mourned the passing of its principal, Benjamin Fox, who died of cancer on August 22.

Although Mr. Fox had been hospitalized twice in the past year for surgery, he had appeared in excellent health on his departure for Europe in the beginning of the summer. Consequently his death came as a shock to faculty and students alike.

Apparently, Mr. Fox was aware of the fatal nature of his illness during his last months. In spite of this, he proceeded with his plans for the reconstruction the fall term would bring, though he knew he might not be here to see it.

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FACULTY PLANS MEMORIAL TO MR. FOX

Discussion of the most suitable sort of memorial to Mr. Fox was the main topic at the most recent general conference of the faculty, held in the students' cafeteria on Monday, November 6.

Among the projects under consideration are a painting by a world-renowned artist, a plaque, and a combination of the two. Further discussion is necessary before more definite steps can be taken.

FORMER PRINCIPAL OF JHS 139 CHOSEN TO HEAD AHVHS

Abraham Wilner assumed the duties of principal of Alexander Hamilton on October 2, replacing our late principal, Mr. Fox.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Wilner comes to Hamilton from Junior High School 139 where he served as principal for seven years.

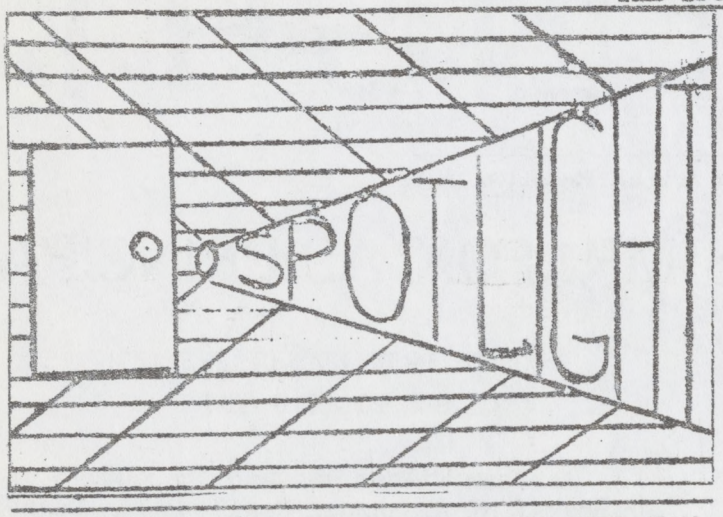
Prior to being appointed to JHS 139, our new principal was Chairman of the Academic Department at East New York Vocational High School. His teaching background also includes stints at Brooklyn Automotive High School and New Utrecht High School. Interestingly enough, Mr. Wilner had attended New Utrecht as a boy.

In addition to his wide experience in high school teaching and administration, Mr. Wilner also teaches at City College of New York.

When queried about his hobbies, Mr. Wilner cited photography, travel, and golf as his chief interests.

Asked if there were any particular comment he would address to the boys at Hamilton, Mr. Wilner pointed out that most of his teaching experience has been in boys' schools and that, consequently, he knows boys very well - how they act, their problems, their needs and desires, and how to deal with them. He looks forward to a relationship of mutual understanding.

G. DeMatteo



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STAFF

J. PERRONE	3K	G. DEMATTEO	5B
F. CURCIO	3K	J. BUZZETTA	3F
F. DESARDEN	3E	M. WILLIAMS	5A
F. POLLARD	3F	M. TORRES	5E
P. LAROCCA	3B	A. THIBOU	3A
J. SCHMIDT	4A	J. TAMMERO	3B

FACULTY ADVISER
ROBERT DONNELLY

PRINCIPAL: ABRAHAM WILNER

MEMBER, HIGH SCHOOL PRESS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK.

THE SPOTLIGHT wishes to welcome most warmly our new principal, Mr. Wilner, and express our hope that his tenure here will be a long and happy one.

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WHY BE ONE-WAY?

Did you ever see a car going the wrong way on a one-way street? At best it creates confusion and disorder and, at worst, results in a serious accident.

What has this to do with school? Simple. Our stairways are all "one-way" - up or down. Yet many of us, through sheer thoughtlessness, go the wrong way.

(cont'd on Page 3)

S U B W A Y M A N N E R S

Elsewhere in these columns you will find a story about the subway courtesy drive.

As you read it, think of courtesy on the subway from another angle: wherever you go in public, but especially on the subway, you represent not only this school but all young people. If you've ever been annoyed by the attitude of some adults in criticizing all young people for the faults of a few (and who hasn't?), ask yourself: "Do I always present the best possible picture of a teen-ager?"

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A WARNING

Mid-terms are behind us and nothing can be done about them, but finals are ahead, and will be here before we know it. Need we say more?

A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The Spotlight wishes to thank Mrs. Sorokin, without whose gracious help we could not publish this paper.

PRINTED HEADLINES BY MR. BENDER'S PRINT SHOP

TRIBUTE TO MR. FOX

(An Editorial)

We would like to print, in these columns, the tribute paid our late principal, Mr. Fox, by the faculty in its first conference of the year. We are sure it expresses the feelings of student and teacher alike.

"The Faculty of Alexander Hamilton Vocational High School deeply mourn the loss of our Principal, Benjamin Fox, founder in deed of Alexander Hamilton Vocational High School. His steady and tireless devotion to the school, the students, and to the faculty will be sorely missed. More than a principal, he was a friend to the faculty and a father to the students, in whom he placed boundless faith and expectation.

His love of the school and his concern for it remained strong and steady even in the last days of his life. We will not forget his courage, his perseverance, and his unselfish devotion in the very face of death."

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SENIORS PLAN YEARBOOK

With the appointment of Mr. Donnelly as publications adviser, plans for the yearbook are underway.

According to Mr. Donnelly, a constract is being negotiated with a publisher, a photographer has been appointed, and a staff will be chosen shortly.

Boys who are interested in working on the annual should contact the adviser. Such boys, he pointed out, should be willing to devote some of their after-school time. He particularly nneds boys with artistic talent, as well as boys with imagination and/or writing talent.

One of the first problems facing the staff is selection of a theme. Mr. Donnelly feels that a theme - a unifying idea brings the various elements of the book together and makes it meaningful.

He would also like to expand the size of the book, through greater use of photos and copy. In regard to the latter, he feels that much more could be done in the book to give the reader a feeling of the school.

$1.4 MILLION RENOVATION BEGINS

Hamiltonians returned to school this fall to find the long promised school reconstruction program begun.

At a cost of 1½ million dollars, the plans include a new music room, new science laboratories, new shops, all new plumbing and heating, new floors and lighting and, of course, a new paint job.

The renovation is much needed, as Mr. Prener pointed out in a recent interview, and will result in a practically new school. A special feature will be an auditorium like a Broadway theatre.

LaRocca and
DeSarden

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SENIORS TAKE REGENTS'
SCHOLARSHIP EXAM

On October 5, 1961, 24 seniors took the Regents' Scholarship Examination.

The purpose of this exam is to give worthy students an opportunity to attend a state-accredited college. The scholarships are offered as an incentive to encourage young people to develop their talents.

The exam is divided into two parts. Part one is a test in scholastic aptitude. It is designed to measure the ability of the student to think clearly and accurately, and thus do college level work successfully.

Part two is directly related to the classroom work of the high school.

J. Schmidt

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WHY BE ONE-WAY? (cont'd from Page 2)

Stop and think! Can a car going the wrong way make better time? Of course not. Then, wouldn't it be easier and better for everybody else (particularly when conditions are the way they are - one stairway completely closed off, and construction work all around us) to use the correct stairway, instead of fighting the crowd?

IN AND AROUND THE LIBRARY

A new term brings new books to the Hamilton library. Among the new titles are:

"The Killer of Billy the Kid," a biography.

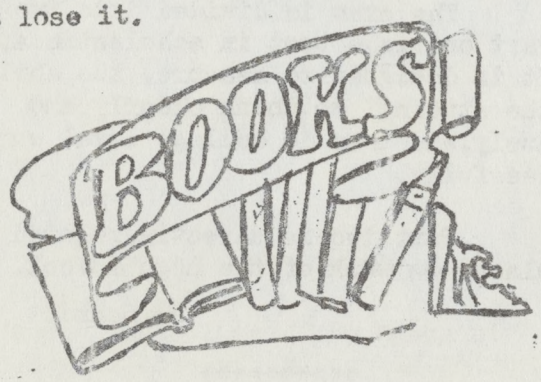
"The Best of Don Marquis," selections by the creator of Archy and Mehitable, the gentle cockroach and the flirtatious cat.

"The Death and Life of Germany," a non-fiction book about the reconstruction of Germany after the war.

New magazines this year are "Ebony" and "Model Railroad."

For newcomers at Hamilton, a little information about the library might be in order. First of all, the library has six thousand books, and a circulation of 1000 monthly. In addition, to books, it offers magazines and newspapers, and, as a special feature, a listeners' lounge, where you may hear some of your favorite long playing records.

The library is under the capable supervision of Mr. Mapp, who is assisted by Mrs. Panish. If you do not have a library card, get one. On that subject, a slightly less cheerful note: Mr. Mapp mentioned that too many cards are being lost, so-when you get your card, put it where you won't lose it.



ALUMNI VISIT SCHOOL

Among recent visitors to the school was Frank Meleno, '58, a marine stationed in Florida and home on leave. He is an M. P.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

With the coming of a fall term, there is the usual number of new faces among the faculty. It would seem that Hamilton is particularly fortunate in its new teachers this term.

With a heartfelt "Welcome" to them, the Spotlight would like to introduce a few of them to you. So, in the spotlight this issue are:

Mr. Purcell: Friendly and easy-going, this gentleman comes to us after having taught in several other schools. A graduate of City College of New York, he lists among his interests gardening, hiking, and swimming. Among his extra-curricular achievements, he takes great pride in his summer home in Beacon County, which he built himself.

Mr. Milowitz: A man of varied cultural pursuits is Mr. Milowitz, our social studies teacher. Among them are music, painting, and reading. He has taught at JHS 22, Plainview High School, and JHS 35. A veteran of the Army, discharged in 1950 Mr. Milowitz takes an especially dim view of the current world situation. (See p. 8)

Mr. Yaslow: Eighteen years of experience with such companies as Westinghouse and Republic Aviation accompany Mr. Yalsow of the Related Technical Department, to Hamilton. Among his after school pursuits is the worthwhile occupation of a Cubmaster with the Boy Scouts of America. He also enjoys photography, the arts, and reading.

Mrs. Kimmelman: Interviewed while monitoring the lunchroom, this charming new addition to the faculty informed us that her birthplace is Chicago, Illinois, she attended Hunter College and has taught at other schools in New York. When asked about her hobbies and interests, she listed modern and primitive dance, good books, music, theatre, and "my two sons". Her comment on her job at Hamilton? "Happy to be here. The students of Hamilton are a 'likeable bunch'."

(cont'd on Page 8)

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

BETTER SEASON, B. B. COACH PREDICTS

"This year's team looks better than last year's." So spoke Coach Cotler of the basketball team.

The season starts December first, with a match against George Westinghouse. Among the other schools to be played are: William E. Grady, Eli Whitney, Thomas Edison, Bushwick, East Side, East New York. Hamilton will play each school twice.

Members of this year's team are: Nick Mainola, 7D, Douglas Olsen, 7C, Walter Wilson, 5B, Noah Brown, 3J, David Caban, 3I Pat Corbett, 7C, Kevin McFeeley, 3J, Arnold Weirsac, 3H, Sol Balestaieri, 3C, Joe Silva, 3B, Silvio Babar, 3B, and Fred Petzolo, 3B.

P. LaRocca

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MANY TURN OUT FOR RIFLE

With a very heavy turn out for the rifle team, Coach Frank Murtha is very optimistic about the season.

The team, which uses the Naval Armory for practice once a week, consists of W. Allen, 1E, Albert Alvarez, 5D, J. Belton, 3F, M. Gernett, 1C, J. Casar, 1H, N. DeMora, 6B, R. Dunn, 3F, D. Figueroa, 1J, S. Furletti, 1B, B. Hochnez, 3H, R. Hardner, 3A, R. Harrington, 6B, R. Hernandez, 3K, J. Jalosky, 5A, S. Kafel, 5A, J. Kramer, 1E, M. Kuller, 1J, B. Letstein, 5A, A. Lichtman, 3C, R. Mahmed, 3B, A. Merola, 1D, Mr. Mullervy, 3C, E. Purino, 1G, R. Occhiogrosso, 3A, J. Rogan, 1E, J. Rudowski, 5E, V. Scala, 3C, M. Sher, 3C, J. Sharuli, 3G, E. Stambolis, 3C. M. Varine 5B, J. Veglak, 5E, A. Ventimeglea, 1C, R. Neureb.

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WALLACE COPS SILVER MEDAL

Michael Wallace, a sophomore, copped a silver medal in the Brooklyn Championship Cross Country Meet on Nov. 3. He placed seventh out of an approximate 280 runners. Other Hamilton CC men and their standings are: Elbert Jones, 57th, Richard Pollard, 75th, Willie Davis, 76th, Walter Salls, 100th, Paul Welch, 101st, and Willie Wilson, 118th.

R. Pollard

CROSS COUNTRY TEAM COMPETES

With three meets under its belt, Hamilton's cross country team, while not victorious, has the distinction, in the NYU meet, of beating fifteen teams and leaving the last place team 500 points behind it. The other two meets were the Group Run and the St. John's meet.

Five holdovers from last year form the nucleus of this year's team. They are Michael Wallace, Willie Davis, Richard Pollard, Elbert Jones and Paul Welch.

Wallace, only a sophomore, is #1 man on the team, with a time of 14:30 for 2½ miles. Davis' best time is 14:30, Joe's is 16:15, and Pollard's is 16:33.

Coach Barad says our team does very well, but urges more boys to join to build up the team. Practice is held at Prospect Park after school, and meets are held at Van Cortland Park on Saturdays.

Regular track season will begin shortly.

R. Pollard

SWIM COACH OPTIMISTIC

In spite of three losses, Coach Pulera is optimistic about the swim team's chances.

"The boys this term look very good. The team is well-balanced - three quarters of the team is composed of second and third termers," he said last week.

The matches were lost to New Utrecht, 51-43, to Jefferson, 67-21, and to Boys' High 52-38.

DON'T GET CAUGHT
NAPPING!

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MR. FOX (cont'd)

Mr. Fox came to Hamilton in 1942, a pioneer in vocational high school education. Much of what he developed and planned for this school can be seen in operation in many other vocational high schools in this city.

Many feel that his greatest contribution was the introduction of a well-rounded program in the vocational high school. He felt that boys should be trained to be well-informed, polite, and well-groomed citizens.

His insistence on standards of personal appearance, now taken for granted in most high schools, was, at the time of its institution here, an almost unheard of thing.

Prior to his coming to Hamilton, Mr. Fox had been administrative assistant at the George Westinghouse Vocational High School. Before that he had taught at continuation school.

Before he became a teacher, Mr. Fox had been an engineer, a position which made him particularly well-qualified to head a vocational school.

A TOKEN OF THEIR ESTEEM

If you owned the subway and were going to award a prize, what would it be? Tokens, of course.

Subway riders will be given an opportunity to win a year's supply of tokens--500 of them.

The requirement is to submit a name suitable to describe those passengers with such annoying subway habits as:

1. Blocking the doors
2. Pushing their way through
3. Littering, and, worst of all,
4. Sneaking a seat that has been offered by a gentleman to an elderly lady.

A series of four posters will be displayed simultaneously on the racks of the more than 6,000 subway cars and 2,000 buses operated by the New York City Transit Authority beginning Wednesday, October 11, starting with the BMT.

In each of the posters the offending passenger is shown as an animal (e. g., a donkey for a litterbug, an elephant for blocking the doorway, etc.), and the rider is asked to give the animal what he thinks is the most appropriate name.

The contest is, of course, in line with the courtesy drive underway on the buses and subways. As Charles L. Patterson, chairman of the New York Transit Authority said: "We are trying to discourage the one person in a thousand who offends the 6,000,000 passengers who ride our subways and buses every day. We hope this approach will make them mindful of their responsibilities, just as our appeal for passenger courtesy served to remind our riders how easy it is to get along with their neighbors by the simple use of the words, "Please, Sorry and Thanks."

MR. DELMAESTRO PRESENTS
VARIED PROGRAMS

In its initial appearance, Mr. Del-Maestro's Stage Workshop crew parodied various commercials to make its point: Join the G. O.

In the second assembly of the season, the Stage Workshop presented a panel show, "What's Your Library Book?" featuring Raymond Valcich, 7A, as moderator, and a panel consisting of Anthony Pierro, Ted Piotrwoski, Richard Robb, and Paul Fallon.

In the show, designed to promote use of the library, various guests appeared, each of whom represented the author of, or a character from, a well-known book. For instance, Mark Twain appeared, and the panel had to guess, by questioning him, his identity.

(cont'd on p. 8)

INQUIRING REPORTER

QUESTION: If you were in charge of redesigning the school, what would you do?

Neil Casertano, 7B: If I could draw up plans for a new school, I would put larger classrooms in, and a sink in every shop, plus escalators.

Richard Edwards, 6BV: ...take out all the outer piping which runs through the halls and enclose it in sheet metal. I'd make all the floors tile...

Anthony Vitale, 7B: I would put in a swimming pool and a lounge also. The programs would say "lounge" instead of "lunch."

Raymond Valcich, 6A: The rooms should be in gay colors, with better lighting and better furniture.

Anthony Rossi, 7B: Put a suggestion box on each floor.

Edwin Ellis, 7A, and Robert Simmons, 7A,: MAKE IT COED!

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N.B.C. HOSTS SCHOOL REPORTERS

NBC and Helena Rubinstein played host to high school newspaper reporters on Saturday, October 14, at the Little Theatre in the Helena Rubinstein salon in Manhattan.

The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the production staff of the new NBC television program, "Update."

"Update" is a program especially designed for teen-agers. Its main function is to explain the news events in such a way that teen-agers will be able to understand them easily.

The meeting began with a discussion, after which the students watched the program on TV monitors. Then there was an informal luncheon at which Helena Rubinstein and "Update" moderator Robert Abernathy and the production staff were introduced.

A question and answer session followed, during which students asked various questions, made suggestions and criticisms.

"Update" appears on Channel 4. See your newspaper for day and time.

James Schmidt

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SPOTLIGHT CHANGES FORMAT

With this edition, the Spotlight appears in a new format.

Formerly, with the exception of the occasional printed edition, the mimeographed editions were printed on longer paper, and consisted of fewer pages.

The most startling innovation, however, is the use of pictures for the first time in a mimeographed edition. This is made possible by the use of a new machine.

Ordinarily, a stencil is cut by typewriter, directly on the blank stencil sheet. With the new machine, however, copy is typed up and inserted with a specially treated blank stencil, and the machine cuts the stencil electronically.

INQUIRING REPORTER

QUESTION: How do you find Hamilton different from your other school? (Asked of new students).

William Downs, 3B: 1. We circulate separately, not in groups. 2. Better shops. 3. Meet new friends. 4. Lunches are better. 5. Assemblies are enjoyable. 6. I like the gym. We didn't have a track or parallel bars, etc., in my last school.

Joseph Silva, 3B: To me this is a great change in life because in JHS you could get away with more. I like this school very much because I am playing ball for the school.

Earl Cross, 3E: I find AHVHS very different from my old JHS. There's a difference in the programs. They have more and better shops... plus they have more sports you can get into. What's good about Hamilton is that they like their boys to be very neat ... and at the end of the term you write down what you would like for your program for next year.

Richard DeLio, 3A: This is my first year in this school. In JHS we only had two periods of shop a week. Here we have it every day. In JHS we only had eight periods a day; here it's nine... In my opinion this is one of the best schools in the city.

Carlos Acebido, 3I: No girls!

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MR. DELMAESTRO PRESENTS (cont'd)

Other participants were Seth Pennington, Sam Delgado, Christopher Kontos, R. C. Capestany, Gary Maurer, Henry Dreher, and R. Kobus.

For his third production, Mr. DelMaestro motivated the students for Parents' Night. This he did by presenting a courtroom drama in which a student was guilty of neglect in not bringing his parents to school. At the crucial moment in the trial, the student awoke to find it was only a dream.

(cont'd next column)

HAMILTON HOLDS PARENTS' NIGHT

"The thirteenth of November, a date to remember," finally rolled around, and Hamilton held its much publicized Parents' Night.

As part of Open School Week, parents were invited to visit the school, see the teachers, inspect the shops, and attend an assembly in the auditorium, where Mr. Wilner spoke to them.

In this manner, an opportunity was provided to the parents to learn about the place where their sons spend one-fourth of their time.

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NEW FACES (cont'd)

Mr. Kastius: German-born, Mr. Kastius is a graduate of the University of the State of New York, where he studied Industrial Teacher Training. Having spent four and a half years in the Army Air Force, where he was an instructor in machine shop, Mr. Kastius has also taught at Thomas Edison Evening Trade School. As his hobbies, he lists reading, educational research, skating, and swimming.

Mr. Harris: Philadelphia, Pa. claims this affable new teacher as its own, and Brooklyn College is his alma mater. At one time a teacher at JHS 44, in Manhattan, Mr. Harris enjoys basketball, chess, and reading.

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MR. MILOWITZ LEAVES FOR ARMY

The U. S. Army has recalled Mr. Milowitz, social studies teacher (see "New Faces," this issue). He reported to Fort Bragg, N. C., where, incidentally, Mrs. Sorokin's son is also stationed.

An earlier departure was that of Mr. Kimmel, also a social studies teacher, who was drafted into the army.

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Among the students participating in stellar roles were Bob Davis, Anthony Pierro and Ted Piotrowski.